



SITUATION REPORT #115



INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: October 12, 2020	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents - Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	Number
Confirmed Cases	962
Recovered	917
Deaths	6
2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Out-of-County Residents – Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	
Confirmed Cases	0
Tests Submitted –	Number
Estimated Pending Tests Results	N/A
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County)	20,100
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	74
College Place	124
Dixie	6
Prescott	36
Touchet/Lowden	16
Waitsburg	1
Walla Walla	705
TOTAL	962



SITUATION REPORT #115

Confirmed Cases by Age	Number
Under 20	122
20-39	370
40-59	326
60-79	114
Over 80	30
Confirmed Cases by Gender	Number
Female	429
Male	533
TOTAL	962

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 10/19/2020
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.



SITUATION REPORT #115



1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
WA-2020101211893	10/12/20	Tier 1 Consolidated PPE request	Accepted by Logistics
WA-20201059433	10/05/20	Tier 1 Consolidated PPE request	Awaiting delivery

Monday, October 12, 2020

1. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) meetings with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Local Health Officer, Prosecuting Attorney and Local Emergency Response Coordinator completing Voluntary and Involuntary Isolation Orders specific to COVID-19.
- Maintain contact with media to keep the public informed.
- Unified Command calls providing regular communication and collaboration.
- Frequent messaging on Facebook, including Spanish-language posts.
- Providence St Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) Population Health team monitoring PUIs and cases, their awareness of community happenings.
- Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) food bank distribution in collaboration with Washington National Guard (WNG).
- Southgate Campus Acute Care wing setup.
- Addressing homeless needs for isolation and quarantine during pandemic.
- DCH Environmental Health team consults for prevention planning for essential businesses.
- Controlled access to WalMart, Home Depot, Albertson's and Safeway.
- Procurement of PPE from Washington State Department of Corrections.
- Continued partnership with WNG.
- DCH virtual meetings with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.



SITUATION REPORT #115

- Proactive work on PSA's and infographics with digital marketing company.
- Solid protocol established between Coroner's Office and PSMMC.
- Tyson compliance with DCH/L&I Essential Business Guidelines and testing of employees.
- Delivery of PPE supplies and test kits from UAC SEOC has enabled us to provide much needed protection to our whole community.
- Experience with annual flu immunization clinics and long history of working together gave us the ability to quickly put together a team for testing at the Tyson Plan. 1,290 Tyson employees tested with staff from PSMMC & DCH.
- Aggressive testing at long-term care facilities.
- Spanish-language PSA's on local Spanish-language radio stations.
- Approval of additional DCH positions and increased hours by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Media specific email and phone number established, the centralized PIO email/phone number is working well and is helping with coordination of interviews.
- Protocols developed by PSMMC to do surgeries for most compelling cases that were delayed.
- Volunteer staffing at DCH.
- DCH/PSMMC/Coroner/Consulate's Office worked together to support a local family with international funeral arrangements.
- PSMMC has done a great job of allocating resources, workers, and supplies for the patients under investigation awaiting results.
- DCH conversations with school districts on distance learning strategies and graduation planning.
- PSMMC tabletop exercise for activation of PSMMC's auxiliary hospital; well attended by community partners.
- Formation of business/economy reopening workgroup. Workgroup team meetings including townhall Q&A with local businesses; webinars to help educate businesses. Continued frequent meetings of the workgroup. Use of Chamber of Commerce website for posting documentation/guidance.
- Tour of PSMMC Alternate Care site, DCH isolation and quarantine sites, and Park Manor by DOH Med Surge Branch.
- DCYF, Whitman, and DCH debrief on activation of isolation and quarantine for Master's Ranch – West juveniles; successful collaboration.
- Approval of WWEM part-time temp position for logistics by the Board of County Commissioners.
- 1 nurse and 1 disease investigator on staff over the weekend as cases come in over the weekend.
- All of our cases to date are from a known exposure; we're not seeing community spread.
- Arrival of first delivery of masks for low-income population in time for Governor's face mask mandate (36,000 masks). Rapid distribution by Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) to nearly 30 agencies and on 6/30/20 at 4 locations in the community.
- With the assistance of DCH, PSMMC received Remdesivir.
- Reopening workgroup recommendation – though no longer required for businesses, a contact log is a good practice.
- Having COVID safety plans in place at businesses benefits successful response to positive employees, as seen recently at a local restaurant.
- City of College Place Hand sanitizer and mask drive-through distribution on 7/7/20 (300 vehicles) 7/9/20 (400 vehicles), and 8/25/20. Handout at their booth at Thursday Farmers Market.



SITUATION REPORT #115

- Meeting on 7/8/20 with DCH/WWEM/USFS/DNR to discuss preplanning for COVID testing, isolation and quarantine.
- Al fresco dining in Downtown Walla Walla and College Place are working well.
- CEPHEID rapid testing machine is now being fully utilized by PSMMC at full capacity.
- Planning for isolation and quarantine of wildland firefighters with use of space at Walla Walla Community College.
- DCH work with large Oregon employer to coordinate cases with Umatilla County; providing education and resources (Health Fair) for employees.
- Hand washing stations at several locations in Downtown Walla Walla.
- [Washington National Guard Title 32 extension through Christmas](#). WNG remain critical to local food bank operations.
- DCH received 36K cloth masks from GCACH (also received 24K KN95s) in August; giving them out at health fairs.
- Highest number of COVID patients at PSMMC since the beginning of the pandemic on 8/11/20, and yet the hospital wasn't overwhelmed.
- Health Fairs: Smith Frozen Foods (August 6), First Fruits (August 12), Tyson Fresh Meats (August 20), Valle Lindo Homes (August 27), Walla Walla River Packing (August 28), & Kiska Farms (September 1), education, masks, hand sanitizer and CDC fliers (Spanish and English) distributed with team from PSMMC & DCH.
- DCH agreement with Whitman College to use North Hall for isolation and quarantine extended until 10/31.
- DCH/Providence/FMC/WWC have aligned their response for population asking for medical note to not wear a mask (exception to required mask wearing); consistent info/guidance that they are not providing notes to patients.
- Community Roundtable discussions for school reopening planning (Cities of Walla Walla, College Place & Waitsburg); looking at effects on workplace, childcare, behavioral health held during the week of August 17 were well attended
- Department of Commerce Shelter Grant approved for the Sleep Center and purchase of a mobile unit to provide support around the county (2 or 3-year grant).
- 'Testing for Heroes' at PSMMC; employee and first responder antibody testing, initial figures show 60% participation by PSMMC employees.
- City of College Place door-to-door distribution of masks and disinfectant to businesses with the assistance of Chamber of Commerce.
- Slow trend downward in cases.
- Utilization of WNG for filling WEBEOC request for LTC weekly testing to comply with CMS guidelines.
- Work with Providence on future isolation & quarantine options.
- Whitman College success with students following mask wearing guidelines.
- [Veteran's Stand Down](#) on September 26th at VA Hospital.
- Whitman College extending agreement for use of North Hall for isolation and quarantine to the end of November.
- LTC reporting that WNG has provided 'amazing support' for COVID testing to meet CMS requirements.
- DCH has seen positive feedback on Facebook to posting of Halloween guidance.
- Today's report of 3% positivity rate; first time below 5% since July.
- Protocols for following positive antigen tests with PCR testing to confirm at LTC facilities.



SITUATION REPORT #115

2. Risks and challenges

- COVID-19 Cases—
 - Total Confirmed Cases: 962
 - ❖ Active: 38
 - Home Isolation: 36
 - Hospitalized: 2 – Walla Walla County residents
 - ❖ Deaths: 6
 - ❖ Recovered: 917
 - Washington State Penitentiary (included in numbers above): 153 incarcerated (1 active) and 7 staff (0 active)
- Bump in community of Burbank cases related to employees showing up for work with symptoms.
 - Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
 - Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
 - Need to continue to monitor for behavioral health issues.
 - Case investigation slowed by contacts not answering phone calls from DCH.
 - Multiple concerns about school not reopening; daycare, work impacts, behavioral health.
 - Challenges with return to in-person learning as school districts return to in-person at different rates.
 - Getting vaccination drive-through's set up for winter.
 - Halloween guidelines release – will be difficult to get the community to abide by.
 - Challenges as public schools prepare to open safely with hybrid learning models.
- High wind watch in effect for Tuesday; wind gusts of 60 mph possible. This could interfere with outdoor testing.
- Cold/flu season; respiratory symptoms may be confused with COVID and require workers to stay home.
Note: respiratory guidance is available from DOH.

3. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Emergency Management is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM continued collection of donations from the community.
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- Submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources.
- DCH weekend staffing.
- Weekly ESF6 Human Services weekly conference calls.
- PSMCM maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Ongoing communications of the State's 'Smart Start' information down to the local level to ensure local businesses understand the requirements for Phase 2 operations.
- Reopening Business Workgroup:



SITUATION REPORT #115

- Weekly Business Resource Town Hall – 10/22 family friendly policies discussion (to help employees)
- Visitor's Center kiosk on Main Street giving out masks
- Masks and educational postcards are being given out at hotels, short-term rentals or visitors; postcards at the Walla Walla Regional Airport for arriving passengers (there are extra cards available for other businesses)
- Cities of Walla Walla and College Place exploring options for winterizing/heating outdoor dining spaces
- Salvation Army foodbank operations (information in food boxes), ongoing
- Working on a Holiday Shopping Guide
- DCH and PSMMC are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary. WNG is providing testing support.
- DCH providing weekly status report to public and private schools to assist them with opening reopening plans.
- Local COVID-19 vaccine planning continues as clinical trials move forward.
- Flu Roundup drive through flu immunization clinic on Saturday, October 24th, at PSMMC Southgate Campus.
- Washington National Guard deployed to assist with testing at LTC facility to meet CMS requirements.
- LTC facilities to continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%.
- PSMMC and Family Medical Center have changed their masking requirements; if patient arrives wearing a bandana or gaiter they will be asked to put on a mask.
- Public School Openings (all hybrid with partial in-person and partial remote learning)
 - Columbia, Waitsburg and Prescott School Districts – this week
 - Walla Walla Public Schools, PK through Grade 2 – October 26
 - College Place Public Schools PK- Grade 12 – October 19th
- LTC working with DOH to have third party quality improvement assessment.
- Abbott Labs is producing a rapid test card, Binex Now, with test results via an application. LTC and Whitman College are interested in using. WWEM inquiry to SEOC/DOH last week; they are working on prioritizing allocation of the test. More news to follow.
- DCH ordered 1000 doses of flu vaccine; in discussion with partners as to best way to distribute.
- WWEM to coordinate with schools for PPE orders (now available through tiered ordering procedures from SEOC).
- WWEM is working through logistics of FEMA hand sanitizer donation. Minimum order of 1 pallet and up to 26 pallets, forklift and loading dock requirements.
- The Health Center of Walla Walla, in conjunction with Walla Walla County Department of Health and Walla Walla Public Schools, is offering [FREE flu vaccinations](#) for ages 5-18 in a drive-by vaccination clinic at Walla Walla High School on Wednesday, October 14 from 4-6 p.m.

Prepared By: Liz Jessee & Patrick Purcell, Emergency Management Coordinator, 509-524-2901 or ppurcell@co.walla-walla.wa.us

REGION 8 PHEPR:



SITUATION REPORT #115

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 10/14 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

- October 12:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH ordered 1000 doses of annual Flu Vaccine for un- and under-insured residents
- DCH distributed Halloween guidance to community partners
- DCH team completed a DOH survey on priorities and capacity for Flu and Covid Vaccine
- DCH looking into an Ultracold Freezer for vaccine storage
- DCH attending Vaccine planning meetings with DOH
- DCH 'Health Space' training completed for health data management
- DCH and BMAC continue to coordinate community mask distributions
- DCH completed site visits to schools to assist in opening in hybrid learning models
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH and City of Walla Walla continue temporary shelter planning for isolation of unsheltered cases
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-4pm daily
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, October 13th
- DCH attending M-W-F DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

COMMUNICATIONS:

- One-Stop for Users: City of Walla Walla's website and Department of Community Health's website now linked together. <https://www.wallawallawa.gov/our-city/covid-19>
- Spanish-language posts to Facebook by DCH; shared on (WWEM) Facebook page.
- U.S. Senator Cantwell has a website with Resources and Information for Washingtonians and Small Businesses Navigating the COVID-19 Crisis: www.cantwell.senate.gov
- **Social Media/PIO/Media Requests:** eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Contact tracing and disease investigation

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

Walla Walla County Department of Community Health – Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

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SITUATION REPORT #115

- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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DISTRIBUTED TO: Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office